

# CFP 2026 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON MEDIEVAL STUDIES

May 14 - 16, 2026 | Kalamazoo, MI

CFP

## The Oral-Performative Middle Ages: Classical and Late Antique Continuities between Liturgy and Entertainment

Session will be held in person and virtually

### Description

Most religious expressions include both oral-performative and written traditions, the latter being primarily analyzed in scholarship. This session counterbalances this trend by focusing on the oral-performative arts of the Middle Ages. Inspired by the 2025 Reception of the Classics lecture by Anthony Kaldellis, it extends literary continuity to drama and performance in Christian, Jewish and Islamic contexts. Case studies will demonstrate essential continuities in oral-performative ways of transmission and communication of specific messages for changing target audiences, questioning entrenched assumptions of a break between classical theatre and medieval sacred liturgies and popular spectacles.

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Please submit your abstract directly to the Confex website by September 15, 2025:  
<https://icms.confex.com/icms/2026/prelim.cgi/Session/7024>